



For Immediate Release

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Contacts: Saleem Cheeks
Eric Mower and Associates
518-618-1512

Richard Patterson
Foundation for Quality Care
518-462-4800 ext. 19

**NINETEEN NURSES COMPLETE NURSE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Exclusive Program Trains Rising Leaders in Skilled Nursing Facilities**

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Nineteen nurses from western New York area skilled nursing facilities have completed the Foundation for Quality Care’s First Line Nurse Manager Program, an exclusive leadership program for nurses in senior management roles who aspire to become or remain leaders in the long-term care profession.

The First Line Nurse Manager Program is part of the Long Term Care Leadership Institute, which was developed by the Foundation for Quality Care, a non-profit research and educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association. The innovative program, assisted by funds from the New York State Department of Health and Labor - Health Workforce Retraining Initiative and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration - Nurse Education, Practice and Retention Programs, provides college-level credits through the State University of New York Institute of Technology’s (SUNYIT) School of Nursing and Health Systems in Utica.

“No one is more important to the delivery of quality care than nurses and nurse leaders. We need to do everything we can to support them,” said Richard J. Herrick, President of the New York State Health Facilities Association and the Foundation for Quality Care. “Programs such as these are critical to the long-term success of skilled nursing facilities in New York State.”

The Long Term Care Leadership Program was designed to provide nursing leaders with an ongoing educational and peer networking program that promotes personal development, core competencies and best practices in the role of long-term care nursing.

“The Institute is even more critical in these times of staffing shortages and increased quality of care and financial pressures in the long-term care profession,” said Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Foundation for Quality Care. “This program trains the current and most importantly, the next generation of nurse leaders who care for New York’s most frail populations.”

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Nurses Complete Nurse Leadership Program 2-2-2

The 19 participants who have completed the First Line Nurse Manager Program are:

Stacy Bastian, RN, Associate Director of Subacute Unit, Harris Hill Nursing Facility, **Williamsville**

Deborah Blane, RN, Unit Manager, Kaleida Health Deaconess Center, **Buffalo**

JeanCauley, RN, Nurse Manager, Kaleida Health Deaconess Center, **Buffalo**

Julie Delcamp, RN, Chautauqua County Home, **Dunkirk**

Katie Dembik, RN, Nurse Manager, Absolut Care of Aurora Park, **Weast Aurora**

Mary Gordon, RN, Charge Nurse, Millard Fillmore Gates Skilled Nursing Facility, **Buffalo**

Michele Graziano, RN, Unit Coordinator-Subacute Care, Garden Gate Health Facility, **Cheektowaga**

Stephanie Hallifax, RN, ADON, Northgate Healthcare Facility, **North Tanawanda**

Debbie Harris, RN, Nurse Manager, Legacy Healthcare Williamsville Suburban NH, **Williamsville**

Helena Kittleson, RN, Associate Director of Ed & Quality, Seneca Health Care Center, **West Seneca**

Amy Kuras, RN, Chautauqua County Home, **Dunkirk**

Bridget Kureczka, RN, Supervisor, Newfane Rehab. & Health Care Center, **Newfane**

Mary Luckman, RN, Unit Coordinator, Orchard Manor Nursing Home, **Medina**

Mary Louise Nickolai, RN, Interim Clinical Nurse Manager, Father Baker Manor, **Orchard Park**

Almond Nolan, RN, Unit Manager, Genesee County Nursing Home, **Batavia**

Mary Rappa-Odom, RN, Supervisor, The Pines Healthcare and Rehab. Ctr- Machias Campus, **Machias**

Ada Scharf, RN, Head Nurse, The Pines Healthcare and Rehab. Ctr- Olean Campus, **Olean**

Michele Shultz, RN, Nurse Manager, The Hurlbut, **Rochester**

Patricia Sobilo, RN, Subacute Coordinator, Autumn View Health Care Facility, **Hamburg**

The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association and the New York State Center for Assisted Living, a statewide, membership organization of more than 270 licensed nursing and assisted living facilities. The membership includes individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. NYSHFA members, who care for more than 44,000 New Yorkers, are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of their residents.